

Amendments to the Specification

Page 2, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 14-28 with the following rewritten paragraph:

J.D.Adhiya et al., in Membrane Technology in Encyclopedia of Chemical Processes & Design, Marcel Dekker Inc., New York, Vol.29 (1988), in his paper, he said that International Salt Co., Salt Lake City, ~~Utah~~ Utah, USA has described a mechanical method based on selectively heating (the resin bed on conveyor belt) and separating the salt and impurities in crushed rock salt. In this process, iron impurities are removed simultaneously by applying electromagnets. The drawbacks of the process are (i) an additional mechanical device is required to separate impurities from salt which adds to the cost of the product, (ii) besides, the separation is to be carried out at higher temperature; therefore energy (power) consumption increases. He has also disclosed the use of monovalent selective ion-exchange type membranes to concentrate the brine solution and remove the bivalent impurities viz. calcium, magnesium and sulphate. The concentrated brine solution is then subjected to evaporation process in order to crystallize salt with greater than 99.5% purity. The drawback of the process is, it needs a special preparation for monovalent selective membranes. The simultaneous removal of divalent cations and anions to prevent the clogging of membranes also needs special monitoring and washing.

Page 5, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 16-18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

To meet the above objects, the applicants developed a self-sustaining and cost effective process for the removal of calcium ions from the brine by using marine cyanobacteria at ambient temperature, which comprises the class of *~~Cyanophyceae~~ Cyanophyceae* and family *Oscillatoriaceae*.

Page 7, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 4-6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In still another embodiment of the present invention, the cyanobacteria were selected from a class of ~~Cyanophyceae~~ Cyanophyceae namely *Lyngbya*, *Oscillatoria*, *Sprulina*, *Anabaena* and *Synechocystis*, which have affinity for calcium ions.